

THE WINTER COAT IS THE RUSSIAN BLOUSE.

Many Ways of Making
It, but It Is Always
Serviceable and
Chic.

PARIS, Oct. 1.—No one garment will be more generally useful or stylish this season than the Russian blouse. It will be the ideal coat for winter. There is no doubt about this, because the Parisian modistes have all declared so, and what they say, in our own expressive language, "goes." The blouse will be a general utility garment, because it is alike suitable for an entire costume or one to be worn with a skirt of contrasting material.

In Paris it is made so as to look like a wrap. Again, it is something like a double cape. You look at it the third time and you see that it is a very genteel little bodice, with trimmings around the neck and very respectable sleeves.

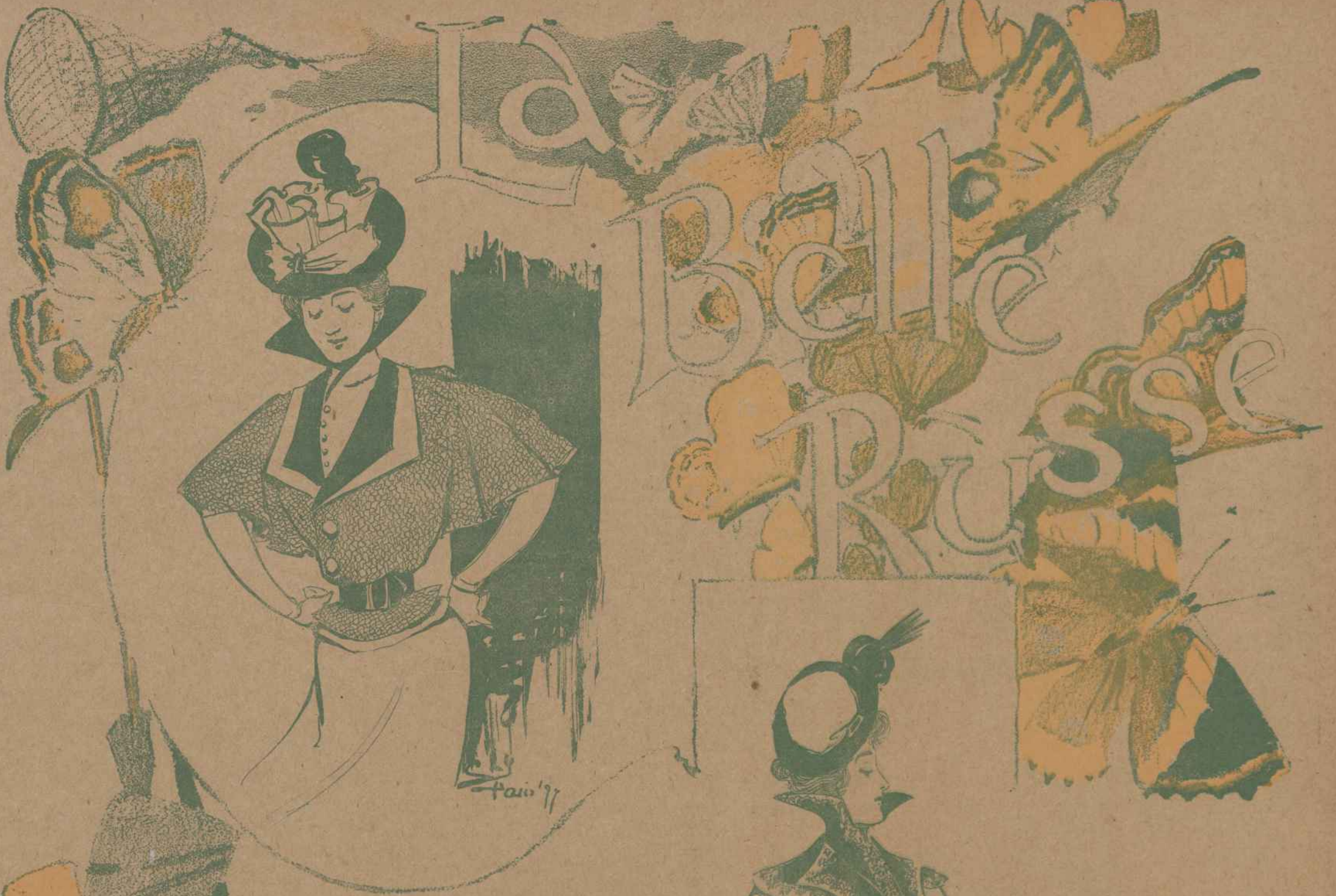
One blouse that I saw worn by a woman of thin, frail figure who sought to hide her slenderness was chosen of tan doe skin, with sleeves which consisted of double box plaits of the same serviceable material. The collar was of green leather, with a burnt design around the edge, and had the customary Medici roll to it. The whole effect was what we Americans call "stunning."

Another Russian blouse was of heavy winter novelty goods, having a groundwork of delicate green, upon which black lines intersected in wavy design. Over it turned a black velvet collar edged with green velvet, the latter being the same color as the delicate green ground work of the cloth.

A distinctive feature about the Russian blouse is that it invariably requires a belt, and here lies an opportunity dear to the feminine heart—that of resurrecting old treasures from the jewel casket.

It has been confided to me by the best of authority that there are French women who boldly carry all of their old, discarded jewelry to the jewelers to have the gems taken out and reset in a band of dull gold or oxidized silver. In this

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new fancy American women are much more sensible. They choose mock gems, and spend their money in having them mounted in solid gold or sterling silver.

Women who cling to the tailor-made idea of severe effects prefer rather a black satin or black velvet belt, or one of the contrasting materials with which the blouse is trimmed.

In the making and composition of Russian blouses, be it remembered, however, that style, fit and perfection of detail are the essentials. Let my friend of many pounds avoirdupois, also look askance at this garment, which her more slender sister may wear with ease and grace, but if she must, let the blouse have the advantage of utmost simplicity.

A very swaggy little garment of this class which can be worn by most any graceful woman is patterned after the following:

The material is of light weight, dark-blue cloth, the tuffeta and velvet trimming being of that shade of brown known as castor, one of the fashionable new colors. This blouse is fitted with shoulder and underarm seams only, the right front flap lapping over the left, and this edged with a full ruching of the tuffeta silk. Two large buttons on the shoulder serve alone as ornaments. The fulness of the back is laid in a single box plait, which extends from the neck to the waist line. At the tops the tight-fitting sleeves are finished by smart little puffs, over which fall in graceful folds divided epaulettes of velvet. Adorned at the neck by a velvet stock collar, and at the waist line by a velvet belt, which is fastened by a clasp of dull silver set with mock jewels, one has, as a result, a garment which is both chic and tasteful and at the same time perfectly practical.

Next in importance to the blouse are the striking winter creations in millinery, in which art we are all ready to concede, the French excel.

I noticed one hat which had a brim of green felt, its crown being of taupe, with an immense rhinestone buckle at the side. Under the edge of the brim stood a black pompon in bold relief like an arrow shot from its bow.

Of course, as winter comes in the Russian blouse goes out, but for the next six weeks it will reign supreme. By that time, however, the furrier and the cloak maker will begin to speak of striking and becoming models, the windows of the swell shops already beginning to bear evidence of their ingenuity. So it is likely that "my lady" will be seen in this very able and natty garment for some days to come.

NINA GOODWIN.

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